(b) whether India have received full details of the incident; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the incident and what action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K.K. TEWARI) : (a) to (c) Complete details in regard to this incident are not available. Both Governments have stated that the incident took place in international waters. While the Libyan side has maintained that their aircraft were attacked while on a routine reconnaissance patrol, a preliminary report of the US Government has stated that the action was undertaken in self-defence.

The official spokesman of the Government of India made the following statement on this incident:

"The incident over the Mediterranean Sea which led to the shooting down of two Libyanaircrafts by US Navy jets on January 4, 1989, is unfortunate. Such confrontations are dangerous and can only jeopardise the prospects of peace in the region about which the situation has recently become distinly hopeful".

Flouting of Safety Rules in National Airlines

867. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received any message from the Indian Pilots' Guild regarding flouting of flight safety rules by one management cadre pilot; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A complaint was received from Indian Pilots' Guild, representative body of Air India Pilots, stating that the Director, Air Safety, had operated flight AI-120 on Sunday, the 17th December, 1988 in violation of the standing orders on the subject. Director General of Civil Aviation who is the regulatory authority examined the matter and found that there was no violation of stipulations on the subject. Indian Pilots' Guild has been informed accordingly on 8-2-1989.

Dredging of Hooghly River

868. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Uluberia Municipality has requested Calcutta Port Trust several times for proper dredging of the river regularly;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons for not undertaking the work by Calcutta Port Trust ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) The Municipality of Uluberia had approached the Calcutta Port Trust for dredging shallower areas on the opposite side of the navigational channel because of the bank slips. Since the study of the hydraulic survey charts over several years did not establish the need for dredging as far as the Port was concerned, the Uluberia Municipality was informed by the Calcutta Port Trust

accordingly. The navigational channel on the Uluberia side needs no dredging as depths have always been more than the Port's navigational requirements. Dredging of the navigational channel further could aggravate the slips because of the increase in depth.

International convention for a set of Jumbo aircraft crew

869. SHRI E. BALANANDAN:
SHRI ASHIS SEN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the international convention for a set of crew in each Jumbo aircraft;

(b) what is the standard set by Air India for this type of aircraft; and

(c) whether the standard set conforms to the international convention?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) The number of cockpit crew and cabin crew to be carried on board a passenger aircraft is laid down in the Flight Manual of the aircraft by the manufacturer with the concurrence of the regulatory authority of the country of manufacture. The same is reflected in the Certificate of Airworthiness issued by the Director General of Civil Aviation. According to the stipulations, a Boeing 747 aircraft is to be operated by a flight crew of pilot, co-pilot, flight engineer.

(b) Air India operate their Boeing-747 aircraft with the following crew:—

(i) Pilot, Co-pilot, Flight Engineer.

(ii) 19 Cabin Crew for full complement of passengers.

Air India have, however, recently reached an Agreement with Cabin Crew Association on reduction of cabin crew complement from present 19 to 17 on Jumbo aircraft.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Inquiry into complaint regarding AI 120 and 121 flights

870. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:
SHRI P.K. KUNJACHEN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ordered an inquiry into the complaint regarding the Delhi-London flight No. AI 121 and the London-Bombay flight No. AI 120 on 17th-18th December, 1988, sent by Indian Pilots' Guild to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism; and

(b) if so, what has been the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. A complaint was received from Indian Pilots Guild, representative body of Air-India pilots, stating that the Director, Air Safety, had operated flight Air India 120 on Sunday, the 17th December, 1988 in violation of the standing orders on the subject.

(b) Director General of Civil Aviation who is the regulatory authority has examined the matter and it has been found that there was no violation of stipulations on the subject. Indian Pilots Guild has been informed accordingly on 8-2-1989.